



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Alt

Anthony Toto
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

September 13, 2007

RE: Triennial Review for the Tulare Lake Basin

Dear Mr. Toto:

This letter is in response to the Regional Board's request for comments in the triennial review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin. We have reviewed the preliminary list of issues for future work in the Basin and agree that this short list includes several topics meriting special priority to protect both public health and the environment. Other parties have emphasized the importance of improving monitoring and management of ground water in this region - especially considering extensive reliance on ground water for drinking water supplies. We agree that steps to better manage this resource are essential.

In addition, we recommend that greater emphasis be placed on work to support the protection and restoration of wetlands and aquatic resources. This region is experiencing substantial pressures which would result in further wetlands and aquatic resource degradation. At the same time, there are exciting opportunities for enhancing and restoring wetland areas, such as migratory bird habitat which is a vital link on the Pacific Flyway.

To assist work on wetland and other aquatic features in the Basin, we have provided a copy of a study recently completed for the U.S. EPA on waters within the Basin: "Tulare Lake Basin Hydrology and Hydrography: A Summary of the Movement of Water and Aquatic Species," prepared by ECORP Consulting, Inc. This is a well-documented survey of historical and modern conditions (natural and man-made) and aquatic pathways for biota and contaminants within and beyond the Basin.

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We hope this information will be of use in preparing the work plan. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Schwinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Schwinn" clearly distinguishable.

Karen Schwinn
Associate Director
Water Division

Enclosed:

"Tulare Lake Basin Hydrology and Hydrography," ECORP Consulting, Inc. (CD)